

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BEAUMONT DIVISION

VALERIE CARTER,

Plaintiff,

VS.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION,

Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:24-CV-00226
JUDGE MICHAEL J. TRUNCALE

SCHEDULING ORDER

The following actions shall be completed by the date indicated.¹ All communications concerning the case shall be directed to Karen McClelland, Judicial Assistant for Judge Truncala at (409) 654-6210.

07/22/2024

Deadline for Motions to Transfer.

08/26/2024

Deadline to add parties without leave of court.

10/07/2024

Deadline for plaintiff(s) to file amended pleadings. A motion for leave to amend is not necessary.

10/21/2024

Deadline for defendant(s) to file amended pleadings. A motion for leave to amend is not necessary.

12/16/2024

Deadline to designate expert witnesses and reports on issues for which the party bears the burden of proof, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2) and Local Rule CV-26(b).

01/27/2025

Deadline to designate expert witnesses and reports on issues for which the party does not bear the burden of proof, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2) and Local Rule CV-26(b).

7 weeks after disclosure
of an expert is made

Deadline to object to any other party's expert witnesses. Objections shall be made by a motion to strike or limit expert testimony and shall be accompanied by a copy of the expert's report in order to provide the court with all the information necessary to make a ruling on any objection. The court will not accept objections to experts filed in any form—i.e., Motions in Limine—after this date.²

¹ If a deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday as defined in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6, the effective date is the first federal court business day following the deadline imposed.

² This requirement has two goals: (1) to encourage early disclosure of experts so that if one is struck, the party will have time to find another; and (2) to avoid the gamesmanship that has become common as parties attempt to disqualify experts with a Motion in Limine thus distracting opponents during final trial preparations and perhaps even blocking testimony required to establish a claim or defense.

Expert reports should include the categories of information set out in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B)(i)-(vi) and 26(a)(2)(C)(i)-(ii). Challenges to expert reports include those set out in Federal Rule of Evidence 702(a)-(d) and 703.

02/24/2025

Deadline for Motions to Dismiss, Motions for Summary Judgment, or other dispositive motions.

04/07/2025

All discovery shall be commenced in time to be completed by this date.

04/25/2025

Notice of intent to offer certified records.

05/02/2025

Counsel and unrepresented parties are each responsible for contacting opposing counsel and unrepresented parties to determine how they will prepare the Joint Final Pretrial Order and Joint Proposed Jury Instructions and Verdict Form (or Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in non-jury cases).

To avoid the cost of designating deposition extracts and objecting to same, counsel shall discuss witnesses who have to be presented by deposition. Counsel should agree on a list of witnesses whom each counsel will subpoena, or if beyond the subpoena range (*see* Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45), whom each counsel will arrange to have present at trial.

05/30/2025

For witnesses who are not going to be called live, oral, and video deposition designations due. Each party who proposes to offer a deposition by video shall serve on all other parties a disclosure identifying the line and page numbers to be offered. All other parties will have seven calendar days to serve a response with any objections and requesting line and page numbers to be offered. Counsel must consult on any objections, and only those which cannot be resolved shall be presented to the court.³ The party who filed the initial video deposition designation is responsible for preparation of the final edited video in accordance with all parties' designations, and the court's rulings on objections. (Designations are not to be made for witnesses who will appear live, nor for impeachment on cross-examination.)

06/13/2025

File unresolved objections to oral and video deposition extracts.

06/06/2025

Motions in Limine due.

Deadline to file Joint Final Pretrial Order. (Obtain form for Exhibit List from Eastern District's website.)

³ Opposing counsel **shall confer** to determine whether objections can be resolved without a court ruling. The court needs a copy of the pertinent deposition to rule on any objection.

06/13/2025

Response to Motions in Limine due.⁴

File Proposed Jury Instructions/Verdict Form (or Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law).

Date will be set by court.
Usually within 10 days prior
to Final Pretrial.

If numerous objections are filed the court may set a
hearing to consider all pending motions and objections.

06/27/2025

9:00 a.m. Final Pretrial Conference in Courtroom 2, Jack Brooks Federal Courthouse, 300 Willow Street, Beaumont, Texas. Date parties should be prepared to try case. Provide court with two copies of Exhibit List, using form from District Clerk's Office. Absent agreement of the parties, this should not have exhibits which were not listed in the Final Pretrial Order.

07/07/2025

9:00 a.m. Jury Selection and Trial in the Jack Brooks Federal Courthouse, 300 Willow Street, Beaumont, Texas.

CONTESTED MOTION PRACTICE

Counsel and parties shall comply with Local Rules CV-7, 10, 11, and 56, in addition to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Local Rule CV-7 requires you to attach affidavits and other supporting documents to the motion or response when allegations of fact are relied upon and do not appear in the record. Highlight the portions of the affidavits or other supporting documents that are cited in your motion or response.

DISCOVERY DISPUTES

A magistrate judge is available during business hours to immediately hear discovery disputes and to enforce provisions of the rules. The hotline is the best means to obtain an immediate ruling on whether a discovery request is relevant to any claims or defenses and on disputes that arise during depositions. The hotline number is (903) 590-1198. *See* Local Rule CV-26(e).

Electronic discovery: In cases involving disputes over extensive electronic discovery counsel for both sides shall review the court's [Model] Order Regarding E-Discovery in Patent Cases before contacting the Hotline or filing motions to compel or to quash. The order can be modified for use in any case in which electronic discovery is an issue, and any ruling of the court on conduct of electronic discovery will likely be based, at least in part, on that Model Order. *See* ED Texas Website under Quick Links / Forms / Patent Forms / Order Regarding E-Discovery in Patent Cases.

SETTLEMENT

Plaintiff's counsel shall immediately notify the court upon settlement. All papers necessary for the removal of the case from the Court's active trial docket should be filed within thirty (30) days of settlement.

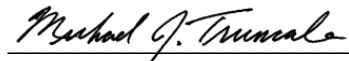
⁴ To save time and space, respond only to items objected to. All others will be considered to be agreed. Opposing counsel **shall confer** in an attempt to resolve any dispute over the motions in limine within five calendar days of the filing of any response. The parties shall notify the court of all issues which are resolved.

COMPLIANCE

Attorneys and pro se litigants who appear in this court must comply with the deadlines set forth in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local Rules for the Eastern District of Texas, and this Order. **A party is not excused from the requirements of a Rule or Scheduling Order by virtue of the fact that dispositive motions are pending, the party has not completed its investigation, the party challenges the sufficiency of the opposing party's disclosure, or because another party has failed to comply with this Order or the rules.**

Failure to comply with relevant provisions of the Local Rules, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or this Order may result in the exclusion of evidence at trial, the imposition of sanctions by the court, or both. Counsel is reminded of Local Rule AT-3, particularly AT-3(i) & (j).

SIGNED this 16th day of July, 2024.



Michael J. Truncale
United States District Judge